



SENATOR PAUL SCARR

Liberal National Senator for Queensland

16 May 2023

Ms Katherine Jones PSM
Secretary
Attorney-General's Department

Dear Secretary

I write on behalf of the Opposition Senators ahead of the 2023-2024 Senate Budget Estimates hearings which will take place on Tuesday 23 to Thursday 25 May 2023 to request that certain information is provided to the Committee in advance of these hearings.

As you would recall from the previous Senate Estimates hearing in November 2022, other Departmental Secretaries have provided Opposition Senators with requested information ahead of Senate Estimates, which not only assists Senators in their important role scrutinising Government expenditure but also the Department by ensuring that relevant information is on hand during the Senate Estimates process.

I request that the Department provides the follow specific information to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee by **5pm on Friday 19 May 2023**:

- 1) The Number and levels of staff currently employed by AGD and all independent agencies within the portfolio including organisational structures;
- 2) Detailed breakdown of AGD's Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and management. Please include how many staff are responsible in progressing FOIs, the average days to process, the median days to process, how many have been received, and their status -whether approved in-full, in-part, refused;
- 3) A current list of all boards, commissions, statutory appointments within the portfolio including date of appointment and cessation. Please include any vacant positions, the reason for the vacancy, when it became vacant and for how long it is expected to be vacant;
- 4) A list of all ministerial submissions that have been created after 1 February 2023, including the area of the Department that prepared the submission, dates submitted to the Attorney, requested signature dates, actual signature dates, and whether the Attorney disagreed with any recommendations, as per the table below:

Submission number and title	Prepared by (Branch & Section)	Date submitted to AGO	Date by which signature requested	Date signed	Did the Attorney not agree with any recommendations (however phrased)?
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1.	[eg: MSXXX, Proposed amendments to Federal Court Act]	[eg: Courts and Tribunals Branch, Courts section]	[eg: 1 July 2022]	[eg: 22 July 2022]	[eg: 22 July 2022]	[eg: No.]
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- 5) All documentation, including all internal and external communications held by the Department and the letter of Resignation, relating to the Resignation of the Freedom of Information Commissioner, Mr Leo Hardiman PSM KC;
- 6) All documents, including correspondence, file notes, minutes, briefing materials, and the letter of Resignation, relating to any meetings between the former AAT President the Hon. Fiona Meagher, and the Department/ or the Attorney-General's office;
- 7) All documentation relating to the ABCC v Lendlease costs settlement signed by the Attorney-General on 8 September 2022, including documents relating to AGD's involvement and AGS involvement;
- 8) A table showing a breakdown of approved grants of parole since 1 July 2022 in the following format:

	State in which person was imprisoned	Offence(s) committed	Date of grant of parole	Does the grant of parole relate to sexual assault, child abuse or child pornography offences?
1.	[eg: NSW]	[eg: Section 474.22, Criminal Code]	[eg: 1 July 2022]	[eg: Yes]

- 9) A timeline of all Solicitor-General advices from 22 May 2022 in relation to the proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including dates when advice was requested;
- 10) Any timeline of all meetings or discussions between the Attorney-General (and/or his office) and stakeholders in relation to the Family Law Amendment Bill 2023, and any records of those meetings or discussions;
- 11) All documentation relating to the TikTok ban process, including where each department is at with banning the app on devices;
- 12) The funding, and ASL level since 1 July 2021 to 1 July 2027 relating to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation;
- 13) A list of all meetings the Department has undertaken with external stakeholders, which were at the request of the Attorney-General and/or his office, since 1 January 2023;
- 14) Please provide a timeline on the listing of terrorist organisations that have been recommended by PJCIS, Intelligence Community, or any other Committee, that have not yet been acted upon;

- 15) A timeline of all meetings or discussions between the Australian Law Reform Commission and the Attorney-General (and/or his office) in relation to the inquiry into Religious Educational Institutions and Anti-Discrimination laws, and any records of those meetings or discussions;
- 16) Provide a table of all questions on notices from the February Estimates hearings, and advise what date was each question provided to the Attorney-General's office, what date each question was signed off by their office, and please also indicate whether the answer was amended from the proposed answer, please also indicate where there was any questions that the Attorney-General office and the Attorney-General's Department could not agree on a proposed answer;
- 17) Provide answers to any outstanding Questions on Notice.

Please note that this list of topics is not exhaustive, and opposition Senators will likely have a number of other questions referring to expenditure across the Attorney-General's portfolio.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with the above.

Yours sincerely

Paul Scarr
Senator for Queensland

